

VZCZCXYZ0002
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBO #3990 3091214
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 041214Z NOV 08
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5359
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 8470
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1267
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ NOV LIMA 6706
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 2596
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 7399
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL 4673

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 003990

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/27/2018
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINS](#) [PREL](#) [VE](#) [CO](#)
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR BROWNFIELD'S OCTOBER 23 MEETING WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER BERMUDEZ

Classified By: Ambassador William R. Brownfield for Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Summary: At an October 23 meeting, Foreign Minister Jaime Bermudez provided the Ambassador with a proposed MFA-MOD rewrite of the Cooperative Security Location (CSL) agreement and said he foresaw a resolution by the end of the year. Bermudez commented that his October 17 meeting with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro focused on bilateral issues. He said the GOC will soon deliver a letter seeking clarification of USG policy on extraditees once they served their U.S. sentences (received October 26). Bermudez confirmed GOC participation at the Pathways to Prosperity ministerial in Panama, but said the GOC has not yet decided who will attend. The FM agreed that the GOC should not publicly accuse indigenous protestors of having ties to the FARC unless they have proof. End Summary.

¶2. (C) FM called in Ambassador on October 23. He provided a proposed MFA-MOD rewrite of the CSL agreement in response to our August diplomatic note proposing a CSL in Palenquero, Apiay, and Barranquilla. Bermudez foresaw no problems in meeting Uribe's end-of-year signing deadline. The rewrite included GOC thinking on President Uribe's desire to include some form of security assurance. (Post has distributed copies of this proposed rewrite to WHA and interested agencies.)

¶3. (C) Bermudez said he met with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro on October 17 to discuss bilateral issues. Maduro waved off any discussion of Ecuador, Bolivia, or Nicaragua. Maduro was "exercised" over Bermudez' public statements that the Russian naval squadron visiting Venezuela should not enter into disputed waters. Bermudez downplayed his comments. The Ambassador commented that the USG was also downplaying the importance of the Russian visit. Bermudez said Brazil should be the country most concerned about the Russian naval exercises. Bermudez and Maduro agreed to have a follow-up meeting to discuss trade and investment issues, but no date has been set.

¶4. (C) Bermudez reported that the GOC will soon deliver a letter seeking clarification of USG policy on extraditees once they have served their sentences in the United States. The Ambassador explained that normal USG policy was to return extraditees to their country of origin. Bermudez agreed it would be useful for the USG response to include further assurances that would be responsive to the Colombian Supreme Court's decision instructing the MFA to ensure extraditees received all due rights.

¶5. (C) FM and Ambassador discussed current indigenous and sugarcane cutter protests and strikes. They had received much attention in the international community. The

Ambassador suggested that the GOC not make further public allegations of FARC-indigenous ties unless they had solid evidence. Making such claims without presenting proof could undercut the GOC's credibility, make it responsible for killings and violence allegedly encouraged by the accusations, and add an ideological angle to what are largely economic economic disputes. Bermudez agreed.

16. (C) Ambassador asked GOC intentions for the December Pathways to Prosperity ministerial. Bermudez said that although the GOC has not received an official invitation, it plans to send a representative to the event which will be hosted by Panama. Bermudez did not rule out personally attending the event.

BROWNFIELD